



**MEDICAL TREATMENT FACILITY
USNS MERCY (T-AH 19)
FPO AP 96672-4090**

MERCY NEWSLETTER

June 21, 2006

Vol. 1, No. 02

HAPPY 108TH BIRTHDAY, HOSPITAL CORP!

It is my honor and pleasure to offer my personal congratulations and best wishes to the Sailors of the Hospital Corps on your 108th Birthday. The men and women of Navy Medicine continue to distinguish themselves through service with honor, valor, and sacrifice. Your support of the Global War on Terror and humanitarian assistance efforts at home and abroad are clear examples of your unyielding dedication. Each of you should take great pride in your contributions and in the outstanding legacy you maintain and continue to build. Regardless of the platform or location, you consistently exceed expectations. As you look back on your recent successes, I ask you to take a brief moment to reflect on the sacrifices of those who came before you and to rededicate yourself to the values and high standards that made the Hospital Corps what it is today. Happy Birthday to the finest Sailors in our Navy.

**VADM D. C. ARTHUR
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY**



HA Shannon Dawkins and HMC(SW) Patricia Slaughter cut the 108th Hospital Corpsman Birthday Cake onboard USNS MERCY.

What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so,
He called it ... Dad

MAIL CALL:

Keep those letters and packages to your loved ones coming! The mailing address is:
MTF USNS MERCY (T-AH 19)
CREWMEMBER'S NAME
DEPARTMENT, DIVISION
FPO AP 96672-4090

USNS MERCY WEBSITE

Visit the USNS Mercy website at www.mercy.navy.mil for pictures and information about the ship and its mission.

Another excellent site is:

http://www.cpf.navy.mil/news_images/Mercy/index.htm

CMC CORNER

17 Jun 2006- Today I completed my 26th year as a Hospital Corpsman and we celebrated our 108th Hospital Corps Birthday onboard USNS MERCY. As we complete our humanitarian assistance mission in the Republic of the Philippines, I will tell you that our Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen have been nothing but OUTSTANDING in every situation in providing the best medical care and have shown the world about the meaning of compassion. We have the best of the best of personnel assigned on the MERCY. Starting from the Flight Deck led by their leading chief, ABFCS(SW/AW) Bassig. They maintain the flight deck and refuel the helicopters from HCS-25 Detachment which transports our staff to remote locations and bring the patients to us for definitive medical care. A Bravo Zulu to the Flight Deck personnel.

Our Food Service Leading Chief is CSCS(SW) Millan. His division prepares all the food for our staff and our patients, and is also in charge of the Food Service Attendants (FSA). The FSA assist the cooks in meal preparation and prepare the wardroom for meals designated for dignitaries and guests.

Our Nursing Service Leading Chief is HMC(FMF) Twigg. His department provides the hands-on nursing care to the patients in the recovery wards, Casualty Receiving (CASREC) and Intensive Care Units (ICUs). They assist the Dr.'s and nurses in their follow-on patient care (IV's, Wound Care, and Patient Transport).

I will cover more departments in upcoming newsletters. We have a crew of over 700, including Non-Government Organizations (NGO's), and Allied Military (Canadians, India, & Armed Forces Philippines). We're doing great things here and all back home should be proud of your sons, daughters, husbands & wives in that we're providing the best medical care to our patients no matter if they are young or old. When the patients have to leave, they leave with a smile on their face because they know we made a difference to their quality of life.

I'm so very proud of our entire MERCY Crew and honored to work side by side with them. Happy 108th Hospital Corpsman Birthday, the most decorated corps in the Navy. God Bless the USA and Support our Armed Forces throughout the world..

HMCM(SW/FMF) Roland Garza, Command Master Chief, USNS Mercy

OMBUDSMEN'S CORNER

Hello to all the families. We would like to thank those of you who have been attending the family support group meetings; we really appreciate your participation. As family members we may feel we are on the sidelines during a deployment, but it is at times like these our deployed sailor needs us the most. Getting to know other Mercy families and participating in Family Support Group (FSG) activities is a good way to build your support network and to help the deployment pass quickly. So if you or someone you know would like to participate in our Family Support Group planning, please feel free to contact one of the command ombudsmen listed below.

Mercy Ombudsman:

Mr. Lynn Slaughter, mercymbudsman@nmcsd.med.navy.mil
Mrs. Charina Villareal mercymbudsman2@nmcsd.med.navy.mil
Mrs. Jasmine Chillious mercymbudsman3@nmcsd.med.navy.mil



Our phone number is: (619) 892-0788. In the case of emergency this phone is on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Non-emergency messages will be returned daily.

DEL MAR FAIR: This is the San Diego county fair, with rides, livestock, concerts, food and everything else that goes along with a good fair! **Military discounts are available but must be purchased at the MWR ticket offices—they are not sold at the fair.** Military ticket offices will also have available, by the beginning of June, free Fair programs and a special Military Value Sheet filled with Fair vendor coupons. **NEW** for 2006 is a **Military Unlimited Admission ticket** available only on base. For \$9.10, plus base surcharge, you can attend the Fair as many times as you want! A few rules apply, so ask about them at your MWR ticket office. The fair website is www.sdfair.com/fair/

DEPARTMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

DIRECTORATE OF NURSING SERVICES

The last two months have been a whirlwind of activity for all those assigned to the Directorate of Nursing Services. The initial team of Navy nurses and corpsmen that departed San Diego on the morning of 24 April 2006 was comprised of the following people:



CDR Jeannie Comlish (Director of Nursing)
CDR Karen McDonald (Assistant Director of Nursing)
CDR Janet Huguen (Dept Head, Med / Surg Wards)
LCDR Joell Lowther (Dept Head, Casualty Receiving or CASREC)
LT Stella Annunziato (CASREC nurse)
LT Tara Collins (Dept Head, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) / Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) / Isolation Ward)
LT Catherine Soteris (ICU / PACU / Isolation ward nurse)
LTJG Courtney Crane (Med / Surg Ward nurse)

DNS Nurses



HM1 Jason Moore	HM3 Duane Sedillo	HN Christopher Ergle
HM2 Robert Pitka	HM3 Andrew Bell	HN Gerry Newsome
HM2 Traci Frost	HM3 Nicholas RuizMartinez	HN Vincente Mendes
HM2 Tammy Long	HM3 Christopher Thomas	HN Johnathan Hensley
HM3 Lawrence Santo	HM3 Christopher Thomas	HN Marcus Ferrill
HM3 Ria Villena	HN Robert Welch	HN Melisa Espinosa

After a brief port visit in Hawaii, we stopped in Guam and added two nurses from Naval Hospital Guam, LT Kenneth Radford (ICU) and LT Monica Toney (Med / Surg Ward), to the team.

We arrived on 20 May in Manila, Republic of the Philippines. After over 20 hours in the air, a travel-weary group of sailors, airmen, and Project Hope Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) civilian volunteers arrived at 2:00 in the morning. Project Hope is the primary NGO aboard the MERCY, having formed a solid partnership with the Navy during the 2005 Operation Unified Assistance mission in response to the Southeast Asia Tsunami disaster. Ronda Schultz, MSN, RN, the Chief Nursing Officer with Project Hope, was accompanied by fellow USNS MERCY Tsunami relief volunteer nurses Michele Okamoto, Joel Trinidad, and Diane Speranza, and newcomers Michael Foster, Rebecca Graves, Mary Bradshaw, and Cindy Benton. Newly reporting Navy nurses and corpsman included:



Nurses

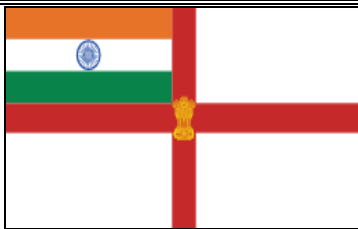
CDR Violetta Padora (Nav Hosp Camp Pendleton)
LCDR Ray Johnson (Nav Hosp Camp Pendleton)
LCDR Rosa Merrel (Nav Hosp Okinawa, Japan)
LT Gene Sherrod (Nav Hosp Okinawa, Japan)
LT Kristin Edgar (Nav Hosp 29 Palms)
LT Maria Tan (NMCSO)
LTJG Keri Krisiak (NMCSO)
ENS Christina Knox (NMCSO)

ENS Anne Marie McAlarnen (NMCSO)

Corpsman (all from NMCSO)

HMC (FMF) Thomas Twigg
HM3 Charisse Javier
HM3 Bryan Duong
HM3 Ryan Campbell
HM3 Christine Amon
HM3 Jamie Benitez
HN Marian Estella
HN Margrette Hellberg
HN Micah Marriot
HN Anna Victoria Padua
HN Jocelyn Quinto

HN Lawrence Tubbs
HN Rebecca Vargas
HN Jossey Villanueva
HN Robert Rodriguez
HN Tiffany Scott
HN Kaylah Stubbs
HN Jennifer McGuire
HN Adrian Pingol
HN Ryan Marquez
HN Susan Salazar
HN Renie Charifa
HN Laneice Wright
HN Shaun Smith



In the spirit of joint operations, our Navy and NGO team was also augmented by members of the US Air Force, who provide patient care and logistics. These members include:

TSgt Marsha Carll
SRA Kojo Amissah
SSgt Beverly Harrington
SRA Danielle Fahlbush
SRA Alisha Hill

SSgt Joseph Copado
A1C Kristen Lynch
SSgt J. Jeremy Clyde
A1C Christina Vanderpool
SSgt Stacey Childress

A1C Alaria Opena
SSgt Stacy Carmichael
A1C Christine Prince
SSgt Gregory Braker

From the Government of India we welcomed Petty Officer Medical Assistant (POMA) Khejar.

After a few days transit from Manila to Zamboanga, our team was finally augmented with five Armed Forces Philippine (AFP) nurses:

Major Josie Nazario
Major Beverly Tabra

Major Michelline Cabaral
Captain Bernadette Angelo

Captain Annieve Adversario

These nurses assisted with direct patient care and were invaluable. In addition, nurses from the NGO Save the Children functioned as translators: Marie “Bembit” Serafica, Pearla Tan Gubat, Erma Carpizo, Anton Alaban, Jennifer Nandu, Edmiraldo Wee, and Jasmin Ahmad. Without them, the fine nuances of patients’ concerns or medical questions would not have been understood.

Nursing Services’ corpsmen and airmen were among the first group to go ashore and assist with electronic documentation of patient contacts and visits, greatly increasing efficiency and accuracy of patient care documentation. We visited Zamboanga, Jolo, and Tawi Tawi, caring for over 58,000 patients, with 279 patients admitted on board, each with a family member. Commander Violeta Padora, Lieutenant Maria Tan, Staff Sergeant Beverly Harrington, Staff Sergeant Joseph Copado, and TSgt Marsha Carll led the team that handled the difficult process of getting all these patients discharged via boat or helicopter with the proper medications and instructions for home care.

Basic Life Support instruction was provided to local nurses, sanitation workers, Public Health personnel, nursing students, and volunteers. Nursing Service personnel also participated in Medical / Dental Cooperation Assistance Program missions (MEDDENCAPS) both ashore and afloat. After going ashore for the day, one nurse stated, **“This has been the best day so far in my Naval career.”**

Department Facts

The USNS Mercy Department of Nursing Services consists of:

- 18 Navy Nurses (from 5 different commands)
- 44 Hospital Corpsmen
- 14 Air Force Medics
- 8 Project Hope Nurses
- 5 Armed Forces Philippine Nurses
- 6 Host Nation Nurses

1 staff member from Government of India Navy. This skilled and dedicated staff work in a variety of settings necessary to run a high tech hospital at sea including: Ward 1(Adult – Medical/Surgical), Ward 8 (Pediatrics), Ward 9 (Adult- Medical/Surgical overflow), Intensive Care Unit, Post-Anesthesia Recovery Unit, Isolation Unit, Casualty Receiving Unit and the Nursing Administration Department.

In order to familiarize the staff with the ship, its equipment and to sharpen skills, we held “The Corpsman Olympics”. This training experience consisted of hands on simulated patient care and transport events including management of multi trauma, airway emergencies, patient movement, splinting, and more. To fine tune the staff’s knowledge on mission specific diagnoses, the Nursing staff also holds daily intradepartmental in-service training sessions.



DNS Med Techs and HN's

Many personnel had opportunities to meet the President of the Philippines, U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, the Philippine Secretary of National Defense, and numerous local and governmental officials. But most importantly, we did what we came to do; provide quality care to patients in need. We received at least as much as we gave in compassion, understanding, comfort, and love. Our lives have been changed as much as theirs, and for this, we will always be grateful. As said in our patients' own words:

"For me, I really observed the sincerity, value, and respect to all the patients that come here including the escorts like us. In this way, I'm exactly sure that, this experience, I think I will never forget in the rest of my life till eternity if possible. In

behalf of this time that you have been shared for us, for all the Filipino Citizens, specifically in Jolo, this will be dedicated in our hearts. A TRUE HUMANITARIAN IS NONE OTHER THAN THE HEART OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I could say that you guide us to a new dimension of life that will make us realize that we don't have to think something against US Medical Mission. Lastly...I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the staff and personnel that are being involved in this ship". (Ward 1 Patient)

"My Dear Friends, Thank you to all staff of the USNS MERCY. I love you all and will miss you. I hope you come again to Jolo Sulu. I belong to the poor family. I am would to become a handsome boy someday. A million thanks to all. (Jajah age 9 , cleft lip and palate repair patient)."

FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP



We had a great time at the Pot-luck on June 1! Theresa Misenko from the Fleet and Family Support Center gave a very timely presentation on deployment and Navy life. The kids had a blast in the Disney room, and the food was excellent and plentiful! The craft was enjoyed by all, and the special shirts should be received in the next mail call.

SAVE THE DATES

Our next family activity is a picnic at Breakers Beach at NAS North Island on July 15 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Please see the next page for all the details.

On August 22 we will be meeting in Balboa Park to tour one of the museums. Watch for details in the next newsletter.

HALFWAY PICNIC!

COME AND JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE HALFWAY POINT OF THE MERCY'S DEPLOYMENT!

Date: Saturday, July 15, 2006

Time: 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Place: Cabanas 8, 9, 10 and 11
Breakers Beach (right next to the Navy Lodge)
Naval Air Station North Island**



**Bring: Dessert if your last name starts with A-Ga
Main dish if your last name starts with Ge-Me
Side dish if your last name starts with Mi-Z
PLUS
Every family bring a liter of soda, water or juice
Please bring enough food for eight to ten people!**



We will have volleyballs and basketballs. Other items you may want to bring with you are:



- Folding chairs
- Frisbees, footballs
- Beach umbrellas
- Towels and sunscreen
- Beach buckets and shovels
- Bathing suits
- Boogie boards



There is a playground by the cabanas and a full bathroom with showers nearby. There will be children's activities and we will be making something to send to the ship. Please join us for a fun summer day!

If you have questions, please contact Laura at moore_mercy@yahoo.com.



RESOURCES!



Top Web Sites to Know!

Amer. Red Cross (San Diego): www.sdarc.org
American Red Cross (National): www.redcross.org
Armed Services YMCA: www.asymcasd.org
California Court Self Help: www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp
CinCHouse: www.cinchouse.com
Commissary: www.commissaries.com
CREDO: www.cnrsw.navy.mil/credo
Fleet & Family Support Ctr: www.cnrsw.navy.mil/fsc
GI Bill, Scholarships, & Job Search www.gibillexpress.com
Lifelines: www.lifelines.navy.mil
Lincoln PPV: www.lincolnhppv.com
Military Child Educ. Coalition: www.militarychild.org
Military Family Resource Ctr: www.mfrc-dodqol.org
Military One Source: www.militaryonesource.com
UserID: military; Password: onesource
Military Students: www.militarystudent.org
Morale, Welfare, & Recreation: www.mwrtday.com
National Military Family Assoc: www.nmfa.org
Naval Svcs Family Line: www.lifelines.navy.mil/Familyline
Navy Exchange: www.navy-nex.com
Navy League: www.navyleague.org
Navy-Marine Corps Relief: www.nmcrs.org/sdiego-area
Ombudsman Program (Official): www.ffsp.navy.mil
Operation Homefront: www.operationhomefront.net
Personal Property Info: www.sd.fisc.navy.mil
Thrift Savings Plan Info: www.tsp.gov
TriCare: www.tricareonline.com
www.tricare.osd.mil
TriWest: www.triwest.com
United Concordia (Dental Plan): www.ucci.com
United Through Reading: www.read2kids.org
United Way: www.unitedway-sd.org
USMC Community Svcs (All): www.usmc-mccs.org
USMC Community Svcs MCAS: www.mccsmiramar.com
USO San Diego: www.usosandiego.org
VA GI Bill Info: www.gibill.va.gov

Deployment Support

Care Packages: www.geocities.com/militarycarepackage
Deployment Health: www.deploymentlink.osd.mil
Send Free MARS Grams: <http://navymars.org>

FREE! FREE! FREE!

UPS Offers free packing materials such as boxes, tape, mailing labels and more (within ten days of ordering) to families of military members deployed overseas.

TO ORDER CALL 1-800-610-8734 Monday – Friday, 7am – 7pm and Saturdays, 7am- 6pm (EASTERN STANDARD TIME)

Operation Uplink offers free Phone Cards, online at www.operationuplink.org Only one card per service member will be sent to active duty members deployed, military address.

Parenting Information

New Dad Classes	http://newdads.com
Family Activities	http://family.go.com
Babyzone:	http://sandiego.babyzone.com
Parenthood:	www.parenthood.com
Children's Books Online:	www.childrensbooksonline.org
Military Students:	www.militarystudent.org
Learning Disabilities Assoc.:	www.ldasandiego.org

New to the Area? Info & Relocation Support

Digital City:	www.digitalcity.com/sandiego
Employment Info	www.caljobs.ca.gov
Homeport San Diego:	www.homeport-sd.com
Military Family Housing:	www.cnrswhousing.navy.mil
Military Acclimate:	www.militaryacclimate.com
San Diego Union Tribune:	www.signonsandiego.com

SITES (Info on ALL Military Bases):
www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/sites/index.jsp

Military Spouse Info

Adecco Career Accelerator (Jobs for Military Spouses!)
www.adeccousa.com/careeraccelerator/index.cfm

Military Spouses:	www.militaryspouse.org
Military Spouse Career Network:	www.mscn.org (Jobs!)
Navy Personnel Cmd Spouse Support:	www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/spousessupport
Navy Wives.Com:	www.navywives.com
USMC Spouses:	www.marinewives.com
Military Community:	www.sgtmoms.com
Military Spouses:	www.spousenet.com

Government Information

Federal Trade Comm. Consumer Guide:	www.ftc.gov
Federal Emergency Mgmt Agency:	www.fema.gov
Government Guide:	www.governmentguide.com
First Gov:	www.firstgov.gov
Gov Spot:	http://govspot.com
State Department Travel Advisory:	http://travel.state.gov